

Jesus and the Internet – Would He Take Advantage of CatholicWebCam.com?

Would Jesus use the Internet if he were here today? We can find a strong case in Scripture that would support His being willing to use this technology:

Matthew, chapter: 9, verse: 35

Jesus went to every town and village. He taught in their meeting places and preached the good news about God's kingdom.

Mark, chapter: 16, verse: 15

Then he told them: Go and preach the good news to everyone in the world.

Matthew Chapter: 28, verse 19-20

Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to do everything I have told you. I will be with you always, even until the end of the world.

Jesus went from town to town educating and spreading the Word to anyone who would listen. He spoke at temple gates, on hillsides and from a boat to best access His audience. It only makes sense that if Jesus were here in the flesh today, he would take advantage of the most powerful communications tool devised in the history of human communications: the Internet.

In **1992**, the US Council of Catholic Bishops published the following as goals for the Church.

Go and Make Disciples (US Bishops)

56. Goal III: To foster gospel values in our society, promoting the dignity of the human person, the importance of the family, and the common good of our society, so that our nation may continue to be transformed by the saving power of Jesus Christ

126. To involve the Catholic Church, on every level, in the media

Possible Strategies:

- development of media plans for evangelization on the national, local, and parochial levels;
- use of audio, video, and videotapes to communicate the Catholic faith to others;
- reflection on Catholics' use of the media in their homes, workplaces, and educational settings;
- formation of task forces of Catholics and other Christians involved in communications in various regions to discuss questions of values in the media and the impact Christian people can have on them;
- involvement of bishops and other religious leaders as public spokespersons of the Church through local print and broadcast media;
- and cultivation of cable television, optical storage, computer, and other technology for communicating the Gospel and Christian values.

Which of the following methods of communication, print, TV and radio, can reach the widest audience for the least amount of money? Answer: none of the above. The Internet is the most cost effective means to reach the most people.

The second largest group of Christians in the USA are fallen away Catholics. I strongly feel that the best way to reach out to this group of Christians is not by physically dragging them back into the pew, but by using their curiosity to have them take a peek at a Mass and letting the Holy Spirit do His work through a priest. When the Holy Spirit is at work through the Gospel and a strong homily, there are few things within our faith more powerful to a wandering soul.

What about nonaffiliated people searching for answers? What better way to have them learn about our Lord but through the Mystery of the Mass? Might the Internet offer a *new* means of delivering a proper introduction to the oldest Christian faith on the planet?

I am Matt Dame and I own and operate Absolute Communications, Inc. (www.absolutecomm.com). I am a cradle Catholic who was inspired by the Holy Spirit to create www.catholicwebcam.com which is an affordable way to get every parish involved in the live webcasting of the Liturgy. Catholicwebcam.com can also be a webcasting vehicle to deliver the following content:

- Baptisms
- First Holy Communions
- Confirmations
- Weddings
- Funerals
- Various educational content
- Parish special events
- Spiritual DVDs & videotapes



There are over one billion people using the Internet worldwide. In this USA alone, there are over two hundred million people utilizing the Internet. I would like to see Catholic parishes get motivated in 2008 to get the word out through the web. CatholicWebCam.com is a portal whose time has come.

Monsignor Humitz saw a demonstration and gave this project his blessing. Monsignor LeFevre thanked me for trying to bring the Church into the 21st century. St. John Neumann is webcasting the 10:30 AM liturgy every Sunday. The only missing component in getting CatholicWebCam up and running for your parish, is YOU! Allow me to show you how easy it is to get your parish outfitted to webcast...you will be surprised how easy and inexpensive reaching thousands of people around the world can be!

It is stated in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Secondly, the Church is catholic because she has been sent out by Christ on a mission to the whole of the human race:³¹⁰" To not use the Internet as an outreach mechanism goes against the very way that we define ourselves as Catholics. Let's reach the entire community, beyond the bricks and mortar, to bring the Word of Christ to all who seek it.

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